


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated April 15, 2009, the examiner rejected claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Pomeranz, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,800,482) in view of Swanson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,428,537). However, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 5, 17 and 22 to recite an electrode comprising an *exposed* flexible metal ribbon coiled around the irrigation tube. Neither Pomeranz nor Swanson teaches or suggests such a feature. Rather, Pomeranz appears to disclose "deformable members, or foam support segments 42 surround[ing] the electrodes 40" and "[t]he segments 42 are enclosed within a covering 44." Column 5, lines 39-62; see also, column 9, lines 53-67 and Figures 4 and 9. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 5, 17 and 22, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-4, 6-16, 18-21 and 23-30, are allowable over Pomeranz and Swanson.

Claims 1-30 remain pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 17 and 22 to place the claims in condition for allowance. Applicant has also amended claims 27 and 28 solely to correct the dependencies of those claims. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings, for example, at page 7, lines 13-28. No new matter is presented. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-30 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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